



Illinois Department of Transportation

Diversity Matters!

FEBRUARY / MARCH 2012

IDOT Hosts DBE Certification Workshop for Local Business Partners

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) recently hosted a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Certification Workshop in Bourbonnais to help bring more understanding to the DBE certification process.

Theo Joyner of Ralph G. Moore & Associates Inc., presented information about the DBE certification process to members of the business community. Norvell Love, IDOT EEO/Labor Compliance Officer, assisted with answering IDOT-specific questions. Joyner outlined the supporting documents checklist as well as the certification review process to help teach business owners how to better prepare for certification reviews. Additionally, Joyner suggested that attendees take full advantage of IDOT's new diversity website, with its convenient and useful links to current project bulletins and updated information about business and employment opportunities.

Business owners in attendance also were able to voice concerns and ask questions about the certification process. For more information on project opportunities, visit www.dot.il.gov and click on "Doing Business."

To check out the Diversity Matters! website, visit <http://www.diversity.dot.illinois.gov/>.

U.S. Senator Dick Durbin, Keynote Speaker at Today's Challenge, Tomorrow's Reward Conference

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) hosted the 2012 *Today's Challenge, Tomorrow's Reward* (TCTR) conference last week to assist small businesses in becoming more successful and to build important relationships within their industry. The two-day event took place Feb. 21-22, 2012 at the Abraham Lincoln Hotel and Conference Center in Springfield and featured U.S. Senator Dick Durbin as the keynote speaker. The idea of the conference was to attract and connect Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs) with prime contractors and help DBEs build more effective working partnerships.

"Recruiting, retaining and increasing capacity of qualified minority and woman-owned companies is a central priority for all IDOT construction projects," said Illinois Transportation Secretary Ann Schneider. "Senator Durbin consistently demonstrates his support for the program, and we are thrilled that he agreed to address the conference." "Illinois is the transportation hub of North America and our economic recovery depends on the investments made in the transportation industry," said Sen. Durbin. "Creating more opportunities through this

conference brought in new ideas, helped small business owners improve their operations and will eventually allow more women and minority-owned businesses to succeed. I was pleased to have the opportunity to join IDOT at this important event." The TCTR conference included supportive services assistance, business exhibits, project management tips, networking with prime contractors, workshops, and concluded with an awards luncheon. To check out a video from the conference, visit <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0vDNSylvjXk>

Transportation Secretary Schneider and Tollway Director Laflleur Named "Women of the Year"

Illinois Transportation Secretary Ann L. Schneider and Tollway Executive Director Kristi Laflleur were honored as "Women of the Year" for 2011 by the Women's Transportation Seminar (WTS) Greater Chicago Chapter for their excellent leadership and outstanding contributions to the Chicago-area transportation industry. The award also recognizes their commitment and work in advancing women and minorities in transportation through available programs and opportunities.

Secretary Schneider was chosen for this award in recognition of her work in making significant improvement towards parity in all underutilized workforce categories at the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT). In an

effort to encourage more minority students to study engineering, Schneider developed the first-ever IDOT Transportation Career Day for middle and high school students. As a result of her extraordinary leadership and dedication, IDOT also created the first university engineering scholarship program for minority students that are willing to commit to a career at IDOT. "I am deeply humbled to have my name associated with an award of such caliber and especially to share this award with someone as dedicated and deserving as Kristi Laflleur. But it is crucial to note that without the support of Governor Pat Quinn and great teams of professionals here at IDOT, we wouldn't have been able to share our vision to

make Illinois the recognized leader in transportation," said Secretary Schneider. "We work together as a team to provide a greener, more efficient transportation network in Illinois -- the transportation hub of the nation." WTS is an international organization dedicated to the professional advancement of women in transportation. WTS is committed to advancing women in transportation through expanding existing scholarship opportunities to women pursuing transportation related degrees, providing and promoting more educational opportunities and career development to advance women in transportation and initiating, sponsoring and publishing research related to advancing women in transportation.

IDOT, USDOT to Co-Host Bonding Education Program

The Illinois Department of Transportation's Office of Business and Workforce Diversity proudly hosted The Bonding Education Program, a partnership between the U.S. Department of Transportation, Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization, Small Business Transportation Resource Center and the Surety and Fidelity Association of America.

The Bonding Education Program consisted of a comprehensive set of all-inclusive workshops to help business owners understand what their businesses need to become bond-ready on transportation contracts. The program included one-on-one sessions with local surety bonding professionals to help businesses assemble the materials necessary for a complete and competitive bond application. This program was tailored to businesses competing for transportation-related contracts. "Becoming bondable is a challenge for many disadvantaged businesses and this pro-

gram's aim was to help businesses grow by obtaining or building bonding capacity," said Frank McNeil, Director of Business and Workforce Diversity for IDOT. The Bonding Education Program was composed of two interrelated components:

- Educational Workshops that included an introductory workshop on intake and logistics; eight comprehensive workshops that provided information on becoming bondable and increasing bonding capacity; and a closing workshop focused on networking and next steps.
- Bond Readiness Assistance consisted of one-on-one interactions with surety bond producers, underwriters and other professionals to help business owners understand the bonding qualification processes. Surety bond professionals worked with small businesses on a case-by-case basis to assemble materials necessary for a complete bond.

To deliver the bond readiness component, surety professionals in each local area volunteered to help small businesses become bondable or increase their bonding capacity. In addition, the Small Business Transportation Resource Center assigned a full-time staff person with surety experience and provided a surety consultant to coordinate the local program.

"We are very excited to be able to bring the Bonding Education Program to Chicago. IDOT has been a great supporter of this program, and we know small businesses benefit when we collaborate on efforts such as this," said Brandon Neal, Director, U.S. Department of Transportation's Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization.

For more information on the selection process to this program, please call IDOT's Office of Business and Workforce Diversity at 312.793.2966 or visit <http://osdbuweb.dot.gov/Regional/greatlakes.cfm>.

Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Location	Contact
3/1	Chicago State University College of Business Career Fair	Johnson Convention Center 9501 S. King Drive SUB 231, Chicago, IL	Fernando Villacorta (847)971-5693
3/5	Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Pre-Construction Information Session	CityView at Illinois Terminal 45 East University Avenue, Champaign, IL 61820	Rena Lee Lenz (217)384-8188
3/8	IDES 6 th Annual Veterans Job Fair	Armed Forces National Guard & Reserve 1191 East 4000 South Road Kankakee, IL	Eric Bermudez lorge.bermudez@illinois.gov
3/28	2012 Hiring our Heroes Veterans Event	The Hilton Chicago 720 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, IL	hiringourheroes@uschamber.com
3/28	Black Hawk College and WIU Quad Cities 2012 Job Fair	Upper Gymnasium of Building 3 Black Hawk College 6600 34 th Avenue, Moline, IL	Marceia Duhm duhmm@bhc.edu (309)796-5191

To view a complete schedule of workshops offered by the Office of Business and Workforce Diversity, please visit <http://www.dot.il.gov/sbe/workshop.html>.

IDOT Announces Current Opportunities for Bid

- PSD Trucks, IDOT – The Department of Central Management Services, on behalf of the Illinois Department of Transportation, is issuing an Invitation for Bid (IFB) for multiple trucks. This IFB does not contain a Business Enterprise Program (BEP) participation goal and is not set aside for small businesses.
- PSD Trailer Mounted High Pressure Sewer Cleaner – IDOT – The

Department of Central Management Services, on behalf of the Illinois Department of Transportation, is issuing an Invitation for Bid (IFB) for one-time purchase of a trailer mounted sewer cleaner. This IFB does not contain a Business Enterprise Program (BEP) goal and is not set aside for small businesses.

To register or for more information about procurement opportunities, visit the Illinois Procurement Bulletin at www.purchase.state.il.us.